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Looking back on the live-altering study abroad experience

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Former Aggie basketball player Spencer Butterfield gets time with Utah Jazz Summer League team

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USU students set out to become Pokémon masters

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Summer Citizens Program celebrates 40th anniversary

By Morgan Pratt
OPINION CONTENT MANAGER

Even though she is 80 years old, Lee Cates practically fits in with the college scene. She sits in The Hub sipping Cafe Ibis coffee from a plastic green mug that says "Reuse," while reading the morning paper and chatting with the people sitting at the table next to her. But she isn't the average USU student. She's one of more than 600 people who moved to Logan during the summer to attend Utah State University's Summer Citizen Program.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Summer Citizens Program at USU. Through the program, senior citizens move into student hous-

ing and essentially become USU students as they take classes through the university and have access to the facilities like the Merrill-Cazier Library and the Health, Physical Education

and Recreation building. "I've been coming here a good 10 years, but I can't remember when I first started," Cates

said. "I have to confess, weather is a big item," she said. "Don't visit Arizona. Visit somewhere where there are four seasons. Arizona only has summer, fall and spring. Logan's nice because it actually has winter."

Even though the classes are the biggest draw for the program, Cates said she prefers spending her time eating at local restaurants. "I've found that even though the meals are expensive, I save half of the meal for later," she said.

zona. The majority of the summer citizens are from Arizona.

Even though the classes are the biggest draw for the program, Cates said she prefers spending her time eating at local restaurants.

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Arizona only has summer, fall and spring. Logan's nice because it actually has winter.

— Lee Cates

ing and essentially become USU students as they take classes through the university and have access to the facilities like the Merrill-Cazier Library and the Health, Physical Education

said.

She said the biggest reason she comes back year after year is to escape from the sweltering hot summers in her home town of Tempe, Ari-



PHOTO BY Samuel Brown
A group of Summer Citizens attend the Lyric Theatre in downtown Logan on Friday.

By the numbers: The Summer Citizen Program at USU

By Shanie Howard
SENIOR WRITER

Every year at the end of May, hundreds of summer citizens move to Logan. Approximately 655 citizens, or "snow birds," as they are sometimes referred to, have come to Logan for the summer this year, including 196 residents new to the program.

The average age of these citizens is 75, and they come from all across the country. Though most come from Arizona, some summer citizens come from as far as Florida to live in Logan escape the summer heat.

USU offers the option of 12 different apartment complexes, both on and off campus, specifically for summer citizens. Some residents, however, can't or simply don't want to stay for the whole summer, so USU housing offers contracts anywhere between 2 and 9 weeks and costs between \$1100 and \$1500.

Not all summer citizens choose to stay on campus, though. Summer citizens Ann and Jim

Lester, for example, decided to stay at Cambridge Court this year because the apartment offers accommodations that better suit their needs.

"We like that (Cambridge Court) lets you bring your dog, and that they have a swimming pool. Those are two big pluses for us," Ann Lester said.

The citizens come for more than just the cooler weather and variety of housing options here in Logan.

Tom Hayes and Marie Porter, both of whom have been utilizing the summer citizen program for more than three years, love the opportunity to escape the summer heat in Arizona and the ability to meet new people in Logan. USU provides many opportunities for summer residents to get to know each other, including classes offered especially with summer citizens in mind. According to Steve Jensen, director of summer housing at USU, approximately 90 percent of the summer residents take classes at

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The Cache Valley experience: Making the most of your time as a Summer Citizen

By Miranda Lorenc
STUDENT LIFE CONTENT EDITOR

From its temperate climate and scenic outdoors to its friendly atmosphere and wide variety of activities, Cache Valley has many opportunities for those who stay for the summer, especially for Summer Citizens.

The Utah State University Summer Citizens Program invites seniors from all over the southwestern United States to escape from the intense summer heat and enjoy Cache Valley's mild weather, beautiful scenery, cultural entertainment and educational opportunities. Below are a few descriptions of the many activities Summer Citizens can enjoy during their stay here.

The Great Outdoors:

Nestled between two mountain ranges, Cache Valley offers its inhabitants and visitors beautiful mountain views, nearby canyons and lakes, and plenty of outdoor activities to enjoy.

Many popular hiking trails and picnic spots can be found through Logan Canyon, just minutes away from the USU campus, where wildlife enthusiasts can identify different plant species or birdwatch. Outdoor activity rentals are also available for those who are interested in boating or fishing on the nearby dams or lakes.

Throughout the summer months, a variety of festivals and events offer residents and visitors a chance to celebrate local Cache Valley culture and history. Saturday mornings bring the Gardeners Market to Logan City Hall with booths selling anything from fresh produce to handcrafted art. The Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater spans five weeks and hosts over 100 events and four theater productions. A summer noon music series brings a variety of different guest performers and lectures to the Logan Tabernacle. With a long and rich history, Cache Valley is also home to many historical monuments and attractions, such as downtown

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SL

The grand finale

Everything is life-changing

By Katherine Taylor
SENIOR WRITER

My first instinct in writing any final chapter is always to bring things to a tidy conclusion. At the end of my study abroad, with my plane home scheduled for Thursday, this feels like a time for closure. Traditionally, this is the part where I tell you I lived happily ever after and it was all meant to be. Then I express my gratitude for the clairvoyant wisdom of past Katherine and thank her for making the decision that allowed me to grow and learn so much.

Here's a fun secret instead: I had no idea what I was doing when I chose to study abroad, and, looking back, I still don't. I took a guess. At one point I literally googled the homicide rates in Wrocław, my destination city, just to see if I were any more likely to get murdered, which was an actual part of my decision-making process (odds were about the same as in Logan, if anyone is curious). In the end, I just took a shot. I made the choice that I thought the person I wanted to be would make.

In retrospect, I have learned a lot of important lessons. I've grown. I don't regret it for a moment, but I do think that retrospection has a way of imbuing things with a meaning that strips them of their truly random nature.

I can't guarantee that I wouldn't have learned the same lessons and grown the same ways if I'd stayed in Logan. I've learned that people are essentially the same everywhere, for better or for worse. I've met so many people at home and abroad who are willing to help a lost student in a new city. I've felt the unwelcome hands of young, drunk strangers in Polish nightclubs and every time I've ever been to the Howl (what is it about that atmosphere that turns people into monsters? Like not werewolves, literally just dudes wearing togas and grabbing girls' butts in the middle of crowded dancefloors).

Studying abroad was a guess, just like most of what I decide. I'm at least 70% sure I want to be a journalist, at least 20% sure I like the color of my hair, and at least 82% sure I want to be dating my current boyfriend (sorry Kenny). Sometimes I don't feel like I'm even the most qualified person to decide what happens in my life. Based on my own track record, I



PHOTO COURTESY Katherine Taylor
A view across the River Oder in Wrocław, Poland, where Taylor has spent the summer as a USU study abroad student.

would not hire me to make life decisions. I'm guessing, and it's not a secret.

If you want me to give you the BuzzFeed version, I will. I'll tell you I have a more global perspective and I grew so much, that now I know how to hold a wine glass and navigate the public transit in Paris, in London, and in Budapest. I'll tell you that now, when I read about a bombing in Istanbul, I check Facebook to see the last time the Turkish people from my dorm, friends and acquaintances, were online. I'll tell you it made me the person I am today, and that it changed my life.

But honestly, most of my experiences do. At this age, I'm a baby. College students are babies. We're changing. We're becoming, and all any of us can do is take a shot at becoming the people we want to be.

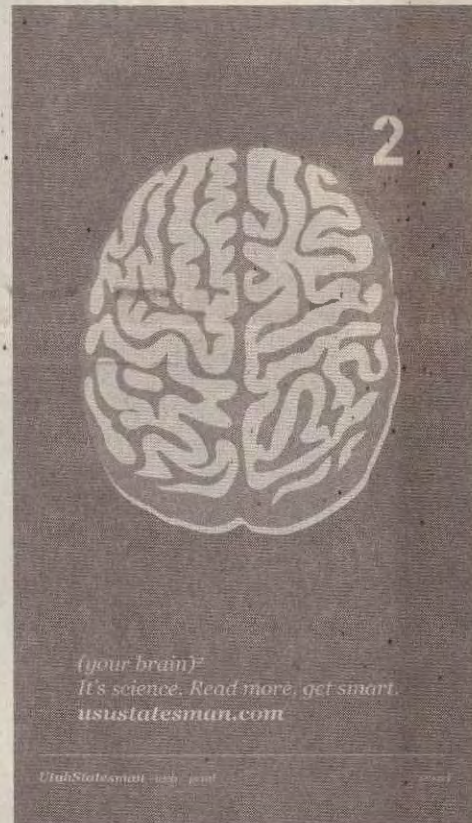
Sometimes when I call my mom and cry because I have no idea what I'm doing, she'll tell me what she's told me before, in the tired tone of a mother to an anxious child: "Katherine,

there are so many ways to be fine."

At the end of my story, at this finale that calls for closure, I am not going to write any. There are a lot of ways to be fine, and studying abroad was one of them. I feel lucky to have experienced it. And, I will express my gratitude to past Katherine—not for having any clairvoyant wisdom, but for having the guts to take this chance despite her being utterly underqualified to make this decision. She did the best she could with the information she had at the time. I think at that point I was about 60% sure, and looking back, it was enough.

—katdiane17@gmail.com

@_the_katherine



Gotta catch 'em all

By Miranda Lorenc
STUDENT LIFE CONTENT EDITOR

Born to be a winner? Born to be a champion? Born to the very best, like no one ever was? Thanks to a recent application it's a whole new world to live in, a whole new way to see. It's a whole new place with a brand new attitude and it's time to 'catch 'em all'.

Recently released in countries all over the world, Pokemon Go is an augmented virtual reality application built on Niantic's Real World Gaming Platform that allows players to live their dream of becoming a Pokemon master by traveling across the land searching far and wide for Pokemon.

"Basically, you get to catch Pokemon in the real world, virtually," said Laura Torgeson, a senior in music therapy.

By using internet, GPS and cameras, players can find and catch Pokemon, train them at gyms, hatch eggs by walking or collect Pokeballs and other items at local points of interests.

"It's like this is a dream come true, we've been waiting 10 years so that we can walk around and catch Pokemon," said Kayla Rich, a senior in art education and printmaking. "And I really just love how it's honestly just bringing people together; I've met like five new people and gotten their numbers in the last two days."



PHOTO BY Miranda Lorenc
A screenshot of a virtual Pokémon battle near the weeping woman memorial in the Logan City Cemetery.

Students from Utah State University are benefiting from the free campus wifi and plethora

of historical points of interests, such as the "Hello Walk" and "Educator, Teacher, Friend" statue, turned into Pokestops. Throughout the day and even late at night, they can be seen walking around with friends, phones out, playing and meeting new people with similar interests.

Even people who weren't Pokemon fans originally are joining the community. Derek Trimble, a senior in human movement science, said he joined because his friend introduced it to him.

"I downloaded it just because my friend is really big into the Pokemon thing and I thought at first it would be dumb," Trimble said. "To me it's kind of an interesting game in the sense of, hey what other game makes you get off your butt and go out and do something?"

Walking and getting out of the house or apartment to catch the various Pokemon is the biggest part of Go, Torgeson said, because players are encouraged to do things outside, see city landmarks and exercise instead of sit on the couch all day and never getting fresh air.

Trimble agreed.

"I think it's kind of creative in the sense of the whole time you're walking around looking for the Pokemon, but you're always looking for these sculptures and all that, so it's kind of

unique," he said. "So if you're out there, you're looking at all the fun things that are actually on campus that you may not have recognized before."

Due to its recent release and popularity, the app is still experiencing server crashes and various glitches such as frozen screens, sudden log-outs and slow loading. Different times of the day are easier to play, however, Rich said, such as late at night when the app servers aren't under as much stress.

Until Niantic finishes increasing the server capacity and fixes any other major glitches, players will have to be patient and enjoy the app as well as they can.

"I've seen a lot of mixed reviews, so if you're a fan of Pokemon, go ahead and try it out," said Cody Barfuss, a junior in biology. "If you're not, go ahead and try it out anyway just to see how cool it is, but it's just cool that the game is based on your location. I haven't seen many games like that, so it's pretty cool."

—Miranda.lorenc@gmail.com

@miranda_lorenc



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Logan and the American West Heritage Center.

Logan City atmosphere:

One of the most commonly praised aspects about Cache Valley is its friendly atmosphere. The local valley residents and college students often share a smile with those they pass on the sidewalk, say hello and hold doors open for strangers. Local restaurants and shops offer quick and friendly service to patrons which help add a feeling of connectivity and welcome to visitors in the area.

Classes and lectures:

While some Summer Citizens are here for relaxation and nice weather, others are here to continue their education. USU offers a wide variety of courses from art classes to religious studies and instructional lectures on using social media. Exercise, history and politics are also available throughout the summer. For the full list, go to <http://summercitizens.usu.edu/CourseInfo.cfm>.

Whether first time Summer Citizens or regular visitors, Cache Valley welcomes everyone with a never ending list of social, cultural or outdoor activities.

—Miranda.lorenc@gmail.com
@miranda_lorenc

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USU. The most common classes taken are exercise classes that are available to all ages.

"I am taking a water aerobics class this year, and I really enjoy it," Porter said.

If summer citizens don't want to take summer classes, there are still many other activities that they can enjoy, ranging from theater performances to organized hiking trips in Logan Canyon.

This year, USU is celebrating 40 years of the summer citizens program.

"The summer citizens take very good care of the apartments and make a great addition to our campus and community," Jensen said.

—shaniehoward214@gmail.com

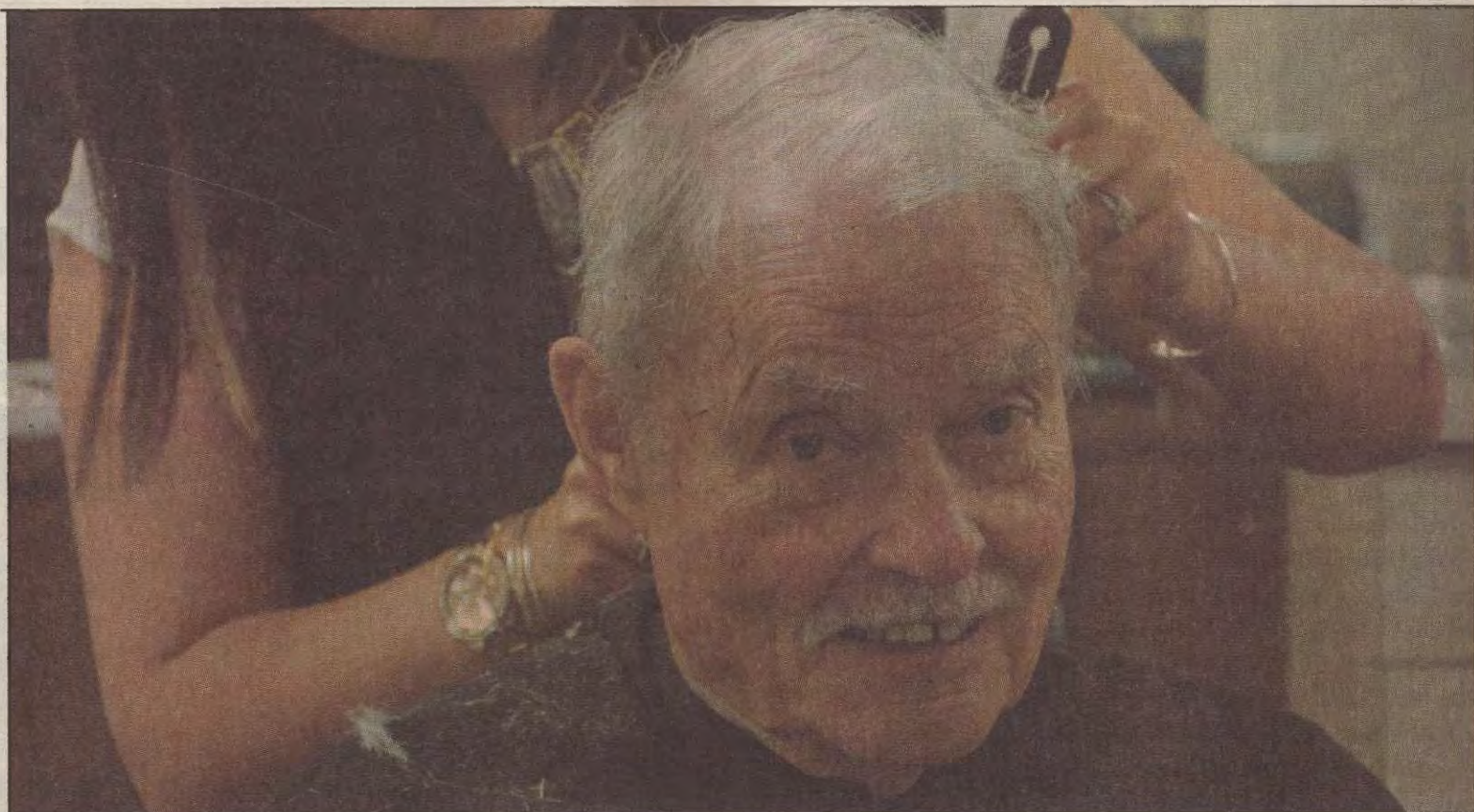


PHOTO BY Samuel Brown
Tom Hayes, a Summer Citizen for the past four years, getting a haircut in the TSC barbershop.

"40 years" FROM PAGE 1

One of the biggest draws of the program is the Summer Citizen community in Logan. Cates said she loves going to the Cache County Senior Citizens Center.

"I used to go all the time because there was a group of four ladies and we'd sit at the same table," she said.

When she's here, Cates is involved in the Presbyterian church. She said she loves seeing the bell choir perform, especially when Cathy Bullock, a journalism professor at USU, performs a solo.

"When I'm here, I get involved in vacation bible school, which I have always been a believer in," she said.

One of the highlights of living in Logan during the summer, she said, is watching plays and operas.

"They're very talented people and I really ad-

mire them," she said.

The Summer Citizens are some of the main supporters of the theatre in Logan during the summer, said Richie Call, a professor of acting at the Caine College of the Arts and director of the Lyric Repertory Company.

"I wouldn't say they're the majority, but I would say they are the core. They're people we depend on coming to most of the shows," she said.

He said the Caine Lyric Theatre wouldn't be able to be as professional as they are without the monetary impact of the summer citizens.

Dennis Hassan, assistant department head of the theatre department, said when the summer citizens come, it is like they are home for the summer.

"We love seeing them around town," he said. "It is an incredible phenomenon beyond what was originally imagined. They are citizens who come back each summer."

Hassan said they're not just interested in the theatre performances solely for the entertainment value.

"But they're also very interested in the history of the space itself, the history of the company, the company members," he said. "It is really like having another set of grandparents."



Brooke says goodbye: USU's LGBT+ coordinator reflects on the past four years

By Melanie Fenstermaker
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

When Brooke Lambert became the USU LGBT program coordinator four and a half years ago, she said many people in Cache County didn't know what LGBT meant.

Since then, the United States has legalized same-sex marriage. Many people are pushing for open bathroom laws and anti-LGBT-discrimination laws, creating a strong dialogue about these issues worldwide.

Now, Lambert said, most USU community members know that LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, and they're willing to discuss it.

"You know, one of the biggest differences I've seen in the last few years is that people are just way more willing to talk about LGBT issues," Lambert said. "Four and a half years ago it was something that people didn't really want to talk about, or they were uncomfortable talking about it."

She said the school's LGBT ally program has nearly doubled since 2012, and the support makes LGBT community members feel safer.

"People are more willing to come out now," she said. "They feel safer. They feel like they have the support that they need. Because more people are willing to come out, everybody kind of knows somebody. Once you are able to put a face to the LGBT community, I think people are way more willing to reach out and say, 'What can I do to make it better?'"

And USU has become more sensitive to LGBT needs. In 2015, the university opened the Aggie Recreation Center, which has the school's first-ever gender-neutral locker room. Lambert worked with the architect and pushed for the room to be built.

This year, the university will allow students to use their preferred names on class roles and school identification cards instead of their given names. Lambert said these changes are advantageous to transgender students because they don't have to ask their professors to



FILE PHOTO
Brooke Lambert, USU's LGBT+ coordinator for the past four years, leaves her mark as she leaves for a new job at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

change their names. She said some transgender students find that confrontation uncomfortable.

She is leaving USU this year for a new position in the LGBT office at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. She says she will miss USU, but she's looking forward to her new job.

Lambert's favorite part of being LGBT program coordinator was seeing students gain confidence and get involved.

"Seeing somebody who's just now come out and they're a little nervous, and then two or three years down the road they're confident,

they feel good about themselves, they're doing all of these wonderful things," Lambert said. "That's definitely the best part of the job."

The hardest part of Lambert's job, she said, was to see students struggle.

"Maybe they don't have the support at home, or they feel like their identities aren't being validated at home. That's devastating sometimes to hear what they've been through."

After she leaves, she hopes the university will continue to have a strong social program for LGBT students so they can find friends and support. She hopes the university will continue to promote events like transgender awareness the week of November 20, which is transgender

day of awareness. She wants the program to grow and eventually get a bigger space.

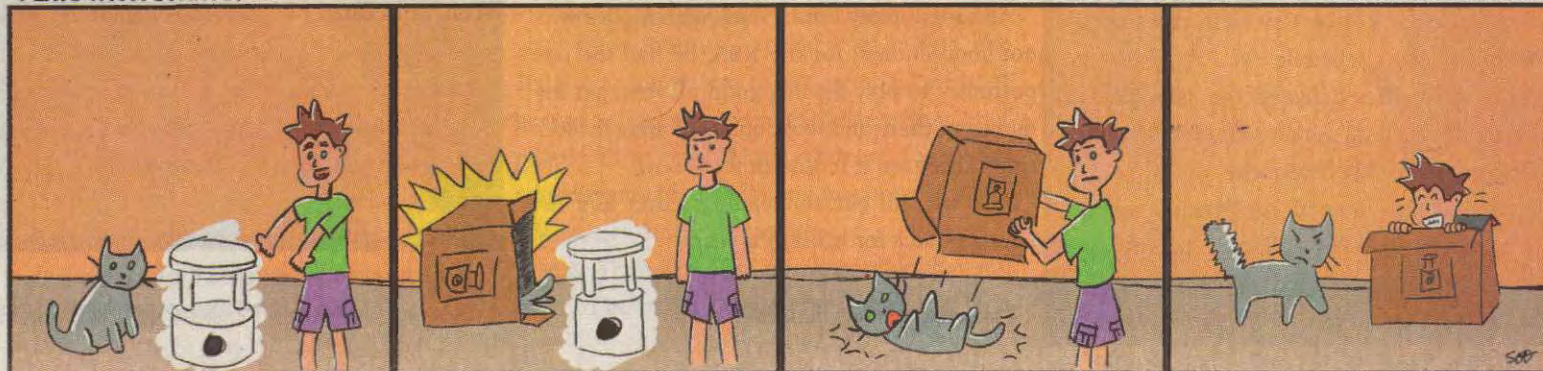
Lambert did her undergraduate and graduate degree at USU. She's lived in Logan for 13 years.

"It's a great place. I've been here a long time," she said. "Utah State and Logan is always going to have a special place in my heart. I really hope that things continue to move forward in a positive direction."

—melmo12@gmail.com
@mcfenstermaker

PLAYS WITH STRING!

BY SEAN CATALINE



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SPORTS

Happy returns: Robert Turbin's football academy continues to grow

By Taylor Emerson
STAFF WRITER

As he stood above the Utah State 'U' at the 50-yard line inside the Stan Laub Indoor Training Center Saturday, you could have confused Robert Turbin for a conductor on a Broadway stage.

In this, the return of the Robert Turbin Football Academy to Utah State University after a year hiatus, the participants needed that conductor now more than ever. The camp experienced its largest turnout with more than 80 participants — nearly quadrupling the inaugural year's mark.

With whistle in hand, Turbin orchestrated coaches, alumni and players through various drills and workouts focusing on agility, speed and explosiveness.

Turbin played for Utah State from 2007-2011. He appeared in 38 total games for the Aggies, finishing his career with 3,315 yards rushing and 40 touchdowns on 565 carries. He also caught 67 passes for 845 yards and 11 more touchdowns. He has spent the last four years in the NFL.

Turbin said when he was just a young player growing up in Oakland, Calif., he never had the opportunity to attend a professionally hosted football camp — "I want to give them an opportunity I never had," he said.

With the camp significantly growing from its first appearance back in 2014, the response this year came with the presence of a diverse group of former Aggie players from across generations.

"I wanted to bring all the alumni back," Turbin said. "From the guys who played in the 80s, 90s and 2000s right up to the guys that played with me. We all have something to teach and something to give."

The medley of alumni included Paul Igboeli, Matt Austin, Kerwynn Williams, Joey DeMartino, Matt Austin, Rashard Stewart, James Brin-

dley, Vaea Fiefa and Emmett White — to name a few — who brought with them a willingness to give back to a community they once called home.

"Some of these guys haven't had their names and faces on a poster in a long time," White said. "But regardless, this community and this school is a family. It doesn't matter how you left, when you left or what mark you made here, you still have to give back to the people who supported you for years."

From the first whistle to the final huddle, the kids were dismissed with a "dream big" cheer — a concept Turbin has continued to preach throughout the years.

"I just want kids to believe in themselves 100 percent," Turbin said. "There isn't a dream, there isn't a goal that's unachievable. Look at me, look at any of these guys, we all overcame great odds to get to the top of our game. If I can convince these kids of anything, it's that anything is possible."

Turbin's life has been marred with adversity and obstacles. He grew up in a single-parent household with a mother who was rarely in the picture. He saw his sister Trina, die of multiple sclerosis when he was just five and only weeks before he was drafted, his brother, Lonnie, was shot and killed. His older sister, Tiffany, was born with cerebral palsy and has been confined to a wheelchair her entire life. Turbin has assisted his father, Ronald, in caring for his older sister since he was just five years old.

On the field, Turbin hasn't avoided adversity either. Turning down scholarships to schools like Oregon and Washington, he choose to attend Utah State — a team in which the year before Turbin's arrival went 1-11. After helping to jumpstart the program, an ACL injury sidelined the upstart running back for his junior year. Bouncing back in 2011, Turbin captured all-Western Athletic Conference honors while leading the Aggies to their first bowl appearance since 1997.



FILE PHOTO: Former Aggie great Robert Turbin recently returned to Logan to host a youth football camp.

Turbin was selected by Seattle in the fourth round (106th pick overall) of the 2012 NFL Draft and played in Super Bowl XLVIII in 2014, when the Seahawks defeated the Denver Broncos, and Super Bowl XLIX the next year, when they lost to the New England Patriots. He was signed by the Colts as an unrestricted free agent this past March.

The camp drew participants ranging from ages 8-18, some of whom donned one of Turbin's replicate no. 6 or no. 22 jersey. The entrance fee of \$100 per camper went entirely to Turbin's foundation which supports children with disabilities, such as the ones which plagued his family.

"It's all for a good cause," Igboeli said. "This

isn't just about football, this about changing lives the best way we know how. These kids get the opportunity to learn a game they love, but someone out there gets another chance, another day of life."

Turbin is looking forward to returning to Cache Valley in 2017 for another installment of his football academy.

"We'll be back, we'll be better, we'll be bigger, we'll be more organized, we'll have more kids, we'll have more food, we'll have more coaches, we'll have more alumni and it will be a blast," Turbin said.

—emerson.taylor411@gmail.com

@TaylorJEmerson

Could the Jazz' improved roster include a former Aggie?

By Megan McNulty
SPORTS CONTENT EDITOR

The NBA Summer League is upon us — a time to try out different rosters of rookies, second year players and unsigned free agents.

Former Utah State Aggie guard/forward Spencer Butterfield was named to the Utah Jazz Summer League for the first time and has appeared in several team games alongside Jazz players like Joel Bolomboy, Trey Lyles and Tibor Pleiss.

Butterfield, the 6-foot-3 powerhouse who was born in Provo, UT, played two seasons for the Aggies and averaged 12.9 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.5 assists his senior year — leading the team in scoring. He was one of the top 3-point shooters in Aggie history, shooting 44.7 percent from the long range. He also earned an Honorable Mention All-Mountain West and was named the WAC Player of the Week twice.

Butterfield played overseas in Juventus, Lithuania last season where he averaged 14.5 points, 6.2 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game — helping him earn an invitation to the Jazz Summer League.

As part of Utah's recent trade for Boris Diaw, guard Olivier Hanlan was moved to San Antonio and Butterfield received the opportunity to start against the Boston Celtics in the second game of the Jazz's schedule.

While the Celtics defeated the Jazz 89-82, Butterfield played 23 minutes and scored eight points and logged six rebounds.

Butterfield also came off the bench in an 86-75 loss against the Philadelphia 76ers for 18 minutes of play to score nine points.

In an 88-73 loss to the Washington Wizards in the first game of the Las Vegas Summer

League, Butterfield finished with two points in 13 minutes of play. However, in a 79-72 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans, Butterfield scored 11 points, including 3-of-5 from behind the 3-point line, in nearly nine minutes of play — pulling out the second-highest scoring performance among Jazz bench players.

There is no doubt Butterfield made a splash coming off of the bench in the Jazz's first victory of the summer, just trailing in scoring behind Tyrone Wallace with 15 points.

Although Butterfield was not drafted to the NBA, he improved overseas in Lithuania and eventually made it back to Utah. He expressed his excitement to sport the Jazz jersey and play in front of his family.

"The more professional years you have under your belt, the more confidence you gain, the more you learn just how to play the game," he told the Salt Lake Tribune. "I think my knowledge of the game has grown quite a bit, just knowing how to find my spots and be effective."

With that being said, Aggies should never pass up the opportunity for improvement. While the majority of Aggies may not be NBA superstars, or even drafted by the NBA, this doesn't mean they can't continue to grow as players like Butterfield did.

I've found that multiple former Aggie players have the desire to play overseas including Grayson Moore and Chris Smith — and they should go for it.

Although many critics said Jalen Moore was not good enough for the NBA, he had the opportunity to play against good players, get his name out there and work on developing leadership skills even if it did not work out.

And we still get our leading scorer and rebounder back for his senior year.

—megan.mcn0@gmail.com



FILE PHOTO: Recent Aggie Spencer Butterfield returned to Utah to play with the Utah Jazz in the NBA Summer League.



OPINION

It's Team Mystic or bust



LOGAN JONES

"TRAIL BLAZING"

— Logan Jones is a junior majoring in journalism.
Contact him with feedback at:

— logantjones@aggiemail.usu.edu
@Logantj

Sitting in a sandwich shop in Kamas, Utah, waiting for a particularly cute waitress to bring me a chicken quesadilla, I watched three high school aged dudes cheerily studying their iPhones as they crossed Main Street. They looked downright giddy — like, giggling and skipping along as if they'd only just realized school was out for the summer. From nearly a block away, I could tell what they were up to. Those dudes were heading for the gym — the Pokemon Go servers must be back online.

To put it bluntly, Pokemon Go is the single greatest app ever invented.

It's genius based on nostalgia alone. A generation of BuzzFeed-reading smartphone addicts was just given free reign to uncover and live

out childhood Pokemon trainer aspirations. If you never once tossed a NERF ball at one of your stuffed animals as a kid intent on owning your very own loyal super-powered pet, you're either under the age of 15 and missed out on the days of the original 150, or you're trying way too hard to act cool right now.

If it's the former, good for you, reading a newspaper! If it's the latter, cut it out — nobody is above Pokemon. Maybe your parents wouldn't buy you packs of Pokemon cards when you were in third grade, but it's about time to put that behind you, because Pokemon Go is amazing.

Now, I never had a gameboy. The extent of my experience growing up with Pokemon was limited to getting home from school in time to catch the last five minutes or so of the cartoon. But after downloading the app over the weekend and catching my first undersized Charmander, I realized this was the closest any of us 20-somethings have been to "catch-'em-all" fever since Beanie Babies.

The game's usefulness is so much more than a maturing generation's unending search to hold onto the late nineties. Pokemon Go is a fitness app, an aid to those with social anxiety and a modern solution for getting kids interested in joining their parents for errands to the post of-

fice and the grocery store all at once.

I don't mean to perpetuate the negative video game geek stereotype that's existed since the '80s, because honestly we're way past the Atari days. But it warms my heart to see gaggles of gamers gathering in clusters around city parks, alongside previously unnoticed or overlooked statues and monuments, and often several yards off of major roadways — probably trespassing, but not maliciously so.

People are getting outside and noticing there are actually semi-interesting things to do there. Social media has taken a short hiatus from photoshopping crying Jordan onto every physical surface on God's green Earth in order to appreciate hilarious appearances of Pokemon in the workplace.

Pokemon Go managed to leapfrog the arms race for decent virtual reality tech by turning

an iPhone camera with GPS enabled into a worldwide gaming map. It appeals to both young kids and adults who still feel like kids. There's literally a function in the game that rewards players for walking 10 kilometers, meaning in just one weekend Pokemon proved to be the spark Americans needed to begin exercising and caring about the metric system.

Pokemon Go is simplicity, competitiveness and addictive gameplay wrapped in a nostalgia bow and delivered amidst summer tragedy by the friendly Japanese man who's lived in the same house down the road since the release of the original Super Smash Bros.

With all the tumult that's so far defined 2016, it's nice to score a win every once in awhile. So thanks, Pokemon Go, for giving us a reason to get up and get out in the morning.

What I knew as a Freshman:
Getting involved

By Caroline Smith
STAFF WRITER

The years a person spends on a university campus are some of the most memorable, formative years of their life. A whole world of opportunity presents itself after high school graduation, complete with the independence leaving home affords. This unfamiliar freedom can foster passion or passiveness and it is integral that students find their niche in college so they can make the most of the university experience. Getting involved on campus can facilitate friendships, job opportunities, and can positively impact peers and professors alike. Three student leaders here at Utah State University weigh in on their personal journey to becoming the driver of their college adventure.

Utah Statesman: What first made you think about getting involved on campus?

Ashley Waddoups, USUSA President: For me, involvement represented opportunity; opportunity to better myself, and to serve others

Matthew Clewett, USUSA Student Advocate Vice-President: I was not a traditional student when I enrolled in Utah State University. I attended community college in Nevada, where I served as treasurer in the student government. Once I arrived at Utah State, I joined the president's cabinet and the government relations council which jump-started my participation here at USU. Throughout my college education, I have been a firm believer that how involved you are will determine how successful you are in school and life, which has motivated me to keep finding ways to participate.

Rachael Fresh, USUSA Student Alumni Vice-President: I wanted to be involved because I wanted to meet people who loved Utah State as much as I did. I knew the people that were involved would be my people and I was excited to start fresh at USU with some new friends. Eventually, as time went on, my desire for involvement changed and now I do it because I want to make an honest difference in my school. Which is the best feeling in the world!

U.S.: What were your first steps to becoming a student leader?

A.W.: My first step was kind of an accident. I ran into the Government Relations Council at Day on the Quad, and they invited me to join. This created an avenue for me to learn about other things that I later did, including president's cabinet, A-Team, Student Advocate VP, etc.

M.C.: One of the first things I did when I enrolled in Utah State was email the elected officers to see how I could get involved. It can be

frightening to put yourself out there and ask a stranger, but it was very helpful to establish those connections before I even got to campus. I also have quite a few student leader friends who attend the Aggie Blue conference and found their start to a fulfilling college experience there, so I would highly recommend attending.

R.F.: My first steps to becoming a student leader really felt insignificant. I was a quiet girl who went to the Aggie Blue Leadership Conference and eventually joined President's Cabinet. At the time I felt like I really wasn't doing these amazing and impactful and great things, but it taught me that you have to start somewhere and that is usually at the bottom of the food chain. Because I had such a great desire to stay involved I kept joining clubs and going to events, usually by myself, but after time people start to recognize you and get to know you. It just takes time to prove yourself and get your name out there. Once you do that the opportunities are limitless!

U.S.: Who were/are your role models both on and off campus?

AW: My greatest role model my whole life has been my Grandma Eames. She nurtured and taught me for as long as I can remember. We would go on long walks together and talk about psychology, social justice, and the piano (she was my piano teacher). Even though she passed away when I was 17, her thoughts and feelings continue to influence me. As far as on campus role models, I really don't think I can fairly pick just one person. There are so many incredible people here who have influenced me for good, and believed in me — even when I doubted in myself.

MC: On campus I would say Ashley Waddoups, our current student president. She is kind, compassionate, and willing to work with everyone. I really look up to her as a leader and mentor on campus. Off campus my grandfather has been a real example, starting from nothing and building his name with hard work. He taught me many lessons, and I credit him with my work ethic today.

RF: Let me tell you, there are so many amazing leaders who have been or are on this campus, but the people who took the time to personally mentor me are the ones that I will never forget. Ryan Lambert was my Aggie Blue facilitator my freshman year and I honestly have never had someone so supportive in my life. He was the one who encouraged me to apply for positions I never thought I had a chance at getting — now look where I am! Doug Fiefia is honestly the best leader I have worked with. I always loved his leadership style and the way

that he inspired us in President's Cabinet but it wasn't until I was recently elected that I started to take the lessons that I learned from him and use them to lead my council. Trevor Olsen is someone everyone should know! No one can enact change like him and I am grateful for his passion for this University. He taught me more than he will ever know and I wish he could stay by my side teaching me forever.

U.S.: Do you have any advice for students looking to get involved? Specifically freshmen?

A.W.: Get to know your representatives on the third floor of the TSC, ask your A-teamer, talk to an Ambassador! It can be intimidating to randomly approach someone, but in my experience, people are always happy to have an excuse to talk about what they are most passionate about. All you have to say is "what should I do to get involved" and then be prepared to talk about your interests.

M.C.: Once again I highly recommend attending the Aggie Blue Conference. If you are receptive to the opportunities around you, you will find something you love! Talk to people as much as you are comfortable, and don't try to define what your involvement should be based on someone else's.

R.F.: Take every opportunity! At the beginning I got involved in pretty much everything I was offered in small ways and through that process I was able to find out where I fit and where I knew I could make this school a better place. I did everything from Aggie Radio to Student Activities Board and now I get to be over the best group of people on Student Alumni. College is big and different, but once you start putting yourself out there people will guide you. Don't settle for being mediocre! For me, being an average student that goes to class and comes home everyday wasn't enough and it didn't have to be! Every student is offered opportunities to get involved everyday. It is just all about being confident in who you are and figuring out what makes you happy.

U.S.: What do you recommend for students who are on the shy side, or are not ready to become student leaders but would like to be involved?

A.W.: First, having an introverted side is not a bad thing. Second, there are a lot of gradual steps you can take than running for a position, or approaching a stranger about involvement. Ask your roommates to attend events USUSA puts on with you, join a club with people of your same interests, attend cool events like TedX that allow you to get involved without having to lead a group or socialize with a lot of people all at once. Many students don't even take advantage of the many resources and opportunities that USU provides.

M.C.: There is a huge misconception that you have to be bubbly and social in order to be a

successful student leader. The best organizations have a well-rounded team, with people who are outgoing and action based, and those who are methodical and patient. I myself am an introvert at heart, but I found that when I kept my head up and my eyes open, there were plenty of groups and organizations that I could work with. Another important thing is to push yourself outside your comfort zone. I never expected myself to join a fraternity, but now I saw an opportunity to change things and I took it.

R.F.: Involvement sometimes has a different connotation to students than it should. Involvement in college could be getting involved in your college or in a club that interests you, it doesn't necessarily mean that you have to be a student leader. There are a lot of reasons to get involved! I love the resume builder. Not only am I leaving college with a great education and lasting friendships, but I am leaving with real world experience in leadership, marketing, teamwork, and event coordinating. For students on the shy side I would invite them to find out what they like to do! Rock climbing, video games, there are even clubs specifically for international and diversity students, so basically anything you could imagine! Every student deserves to find out where they fit in at USU and luckily we have so many different areas you can get involved in. I promise your love for your school and your fellow Aggies will grow more than you can imagine once you start serving your school.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Ways To Save For College

USU Taggart Student Center 336
11:30am, Family Life Center 7:00 pm
Free

Opera Competition - Semi Finals

The Utah Theatre, \$10, 1:00 pm

THURSDAY, JULY 14

Ways To Save For College

USU Taggart Student Center 336
11:30am, Family Life Center 7:00 pm
Free

Opera Competition - Semi Finals

The Utah Theatre, \$10, 1:00 pm

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Singin' in the Rain

Caine Lyric Theatre-Utah State University
\$19-\$30. 7:30 pm

Teen Thursday - Human Foosball

North Logan City Library
Free, 7:00 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 16

25th Street Farmers Market

North Logan Library
Free, 9:00 am

Family Art Day

Cache Valley Gardeners' Market
Free, 9:00 am

Summer Ice Cream Tours

Aggie Ice Cream
\$4, 12:00 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 17

Sunday Under The Trees

USU Amphitheater
Free, 1:00 pm

USU Alumni Band Concerts

USU Quad
Free, 7:00 pm

MONDAY, JULY 18

Summer Camps

Cache Valley Fun Park
\$89.95-\$119.95, 8:00 am

Ceramics Camps for Kids

Cache Valley Center for the Arts
\$94, 9:00 am

TUESDAY, JULY 19

Movie Tuesday - Kung Fu Panda 3

North Logan City Library
Free, 2:00 pm

Peter Pan

The Utah Theatre
\$13-\$77. Visit utahfestival.org for tickets and information., 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Science Magic Program - Cari Johnson

North Logan City Library
Free, 10:00 am & 2:00 pm

Arsenic and Old Lace

Caine Lyric Theatre-Utah State University
\$14-\$25. 7:30 pm

THURSDAY, JULY 21

Pioneers & Ice Cream

Little Bloomsbury Foundation
Free, 10:00 am

Teen Thursday - Color & Water Fight

North Logan City Library
Free, 7:00 pm

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Pioneers & Ice Cream

Little Bloomsbury Foundation
Free, 10:00 am

Utah Festival Chamber Music Series

The Utah Theatre
\$10-\$37. Visit utahfestival.org for tickets and information., 7:30 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 23

You Can't Take it with You

Caine Lyric Theatre-Utah State University
\$14-\$25. See website for details., 7:30 pm

Pioneers & Patriots - Sousa

Eccles Theatre
\$10-\$37., 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Old Ephraim's Mountain Man Rendezvous

American West Heritage Center

\$3-\$6. 10:00 am

Sunday Under The Trees

USU Amphitheater
Free, 1:00 pm

MONDAY, JULY 25

North Logan Pioneer Celebration

North Logan Pioneer Celebration
Free, 7:30 am

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Green Drinks Logan

Logan Country Club

Free, 4:30 pm

Peter Pan

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

International Opera Competition - Finals

The Utah Theatre
\$15, 1:00 pm

THURSDAY, JULY 28

LDSHE Homeschool Conference

Utah State University
\$67-\$110, 8:00 am

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